

AppLCC Conservation/Management Community

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State Agencies

State agencies are one of the wealthiest entities for supplying technical skills for conservation delivery, but are often cash-strapped for conservation support. In addition to thousands of acres of state-managed lands, hundreds of biologists with diverse expertise are located throughout the Appalachian LCC. States are working diligently on finalizing implementation plans to complement their State Wildlife Action Plans (<http://www.wildlifeactionplan.org/>). These plans will guide states and partners to increase efficiency by directing more focus to species of greatest conservation concern and to specific conservation actions articulated in these planning documents. Congress required the states to develop plans that included descriptions of problems which may adversely affect species, priority research and survey efforts, descriptions of proposed conservation actions, and adaptive responses to new information or changing conditions.

The Multistate Conservation Grant Program (MSCGP) funds projects that address the regional or national level priorities of state fish and wildlife agencies (<http://www.fishwildlife.org/index.php?section=multistate-conservation-grant-program&activator=43>). The MSCGP was established in 2000 by the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act, which amended the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act. The Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) cooperatively administer the Multistate Conservation Grant Program. The Association solicits grant applications and makes "priority list" recommendations to the USFWS, which can only fund projects from the Association's list. Once the USFWS makes its final selection, AFWA notifies the successful applicants and then manages and monitors grant awards. Each year, up to \$6 million is available to fund MSCGP projects. Projects may be funded for one, two or three years on a calendar year basis.

The Association of Fish and Wildlife agencies provides a forum for information exchange among State fish and wildlife agencies, and represents North America's fish and wildlife agencies to advance sound, science-based management and conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats in the public interest (<http://www.fishwildlife.org/index.php?section=about>).

[State Wildlife Action Plan - Summary of Proposed Mgmt Needs / Response \(compiled by Bruce Taggart, USGS\)](#)